

## Message Text

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TAGS:ETEL, MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER 13 MEETING OF AD HOC  
COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY - WORKING GROUP ON  
COMMUNICATIONS

REF: USNATO 4729 DTG 311805Z AUG 76

1. OPTION D, AS FORMULATED BY DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF WORKING  
GROUP, INDICATES THAT ONLY THE "RITA" SYSTEM CAN PROVIDE  
INTEROPERABILITY OF TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS IN  
EARLY 1980'S. IF MINISTERS SHOULD ACCEPT AN OPTION D THAT  
REQUIRES NATIONS TO ADOPT AN AVAILABLE SYSTEM, THEN US  
ARMY MODERN INVENTORY SYSTEM "ATACS" MUST ALSO BE CONSIDER-  
ED. "ATACS" INCLUDES AN/TTC-38 AUTOMATIC SWITCH, TD 660  
FAMILY OF PCM MULTIPLEX EQUIPMENT;GRC 103, 143, AND 144  
FAMILY OF DIGITAL RADIOS, AND DIGITAL CABLE EQUIPMENT.  
ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD AGREE TO THE REPORT ONLY IF  
PARAGRAPHS 21 DIII AND 23 OF BASIC REPORT AND PARAGRAPH  
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20 OF ANNEX IV ARE MODIFIED TO REPLACE THE PHRASE "RITA

OR IN THE MID TO LATE 1980'S BY THE ADOPTION OF AUTO-KONETZ, TRI-TAC, ZODIAC, PTARMIGAN OR "CATRIN" WITH "AN EXISTING SYSTEM OR ONE ABOUT TO GO INTO PRODUCTION".

2. REPORT SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT AN AVAILABLE SYSTEM WILL

NOT MEET NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND BE BEHIND THE STATE-OF-THE-ART IN TECHNOLOGY. FURTHER, ANY AVAILABLE SYSTEM MUST HAVE INHERENT CAPABILITY OR BE MODIFIED TO BE INTEROPERABLE WITH EXISTING NATIONAL INVENTORIES DURING A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

3. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT:

A. US ATACS IS A GENERATION COMPARABLE WITH RITA OR AUTO-KONETZ

B. US TRI-TAC IS A GENERATION AHEAD OF EITHER RITA OR AUTO-KONETZ

C. UK PTARMIGAN, IN THE INTEREST OF ECONOMY, IS ONLY GOING HALF-WAY IN EXPLOITING TECHNOLOGY AND ITS DESIGN IS AN IMPEDIMENT IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. OTHER EUROCOM SYSTEMS ARE IN THE PLANNING PHASE ONLY.

D. ONLY TRI-TAC ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNED CATALOG OF EQUIPMENT HAVE THE VERSATILITY, FLEXIBILITY, AND MODULARITY TO BE ABLE TO TAILOR A SYSTEM TO ALL NATIONS' NEEDS, INCLUDING TRANSITION.

4. WE NOTE THE CONCLUSION IN PARAGRAPH 22 OF BASIC REPORT THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO DECIDE ON SPECIFICATIONS OR METHOD OF ACQUISITION OF A 1995 SYSTEM UNTIL SOMETIME BETWEEN 1982 AND 1985. WE BELIEVE THAT ADOPTION OF AN ARCHITECTURE BY OUR ALLIES, SUCH AS TRI-TAC, WOULD PERMIT ACQUISITION OF INTEROPERABLE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS PRIOR TO 1990. IF THIS VIEW IS ACCEPTABLE, THEN A DECISION ON SPECIFICATIONS AND METHOD OF SYSTEM PROCUREMENT SHOULD BE REACHED BY 1980.

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5. AS PROPOSED IN REFERENCE, PLEASE MAKE MR. GENTRY AVAILABLE AS US REPRESENTATIVE TO MEETING.

6. REGRET THAT DOD DID NOT PROVIDE BASIS FOR GUIDANCE BEFORE TODAY. ROBINSON

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